Soundings

News and Information from
The Northwest Washington Synod

Volume 19, Number 6 June-July 2002

A Word From The Bishop, Wm Chris Boerger

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JUN 03 2002
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"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

Romans 12: 4-5 NRSV

One Body In Christ

On June 7, 8 we will gather for the Synod Assembly at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood. The reality of the task of presiding at the assembly is slowly dawning on me. I know what it is like to be the parliamentarian, but this year David Swartling will have that role. The role of the assembly chair is to apply the agreed upon rules and to facilitate the process of making decisions.

The role of assembly member is to bring the witness of your faith to our life together. Lutherans have always struggled with our confessional tradition and how to speak to the issues of the culture. How we do that and what methods we use have changed over the life of our confessing movement in the body of Christ. Now we address questions of sexuality and sexual preference. For some this is a closed question. Their minds are made up and the decisions are obvious. For others this is an open question for which they are still waiting the word of the Lord. The role of assembly member is to listen, pray, and to give witness to what the Spirit leads them to do.

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One Body In Christ

Personally, I see this assembly as the beginning of an intentional four-year process. Decisions made at this assembly will be revisited as we move through the ELCA's study process. We will not stop all ministries to and with gay, lesbian and bi-sexual persons during this time of study. We have the decisions of our predecessor church bodies and policy decisions from the early years of this church. We will continue under their guidance while we address these issues again. I do not expect the final decision to come early in this process. For some this process will be too slow in making up our collective minds. For others this will seem like a rush to decide a complex set of issues.

"The role of assembly member is to bring the witness of your faith to our life together. "

As the assembly gathers, please be in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As frustrations are expressed or as you are frustrated, please remember Luther's explanation of the eighth commandment and "interpret" the positions of others "in the best possible light." (Small Catechism, The Book of Concord, edited by Kolb and Wengert).

The assembly and the body of Christ are made up of numerous parts and members. If we believe that the church is God's creation, then we come together not out of our own will, but by the will and work of God who has called us together. How shall we serve together? Let us remember who it is that has brought us to live together. Then let us wrestle with the question of how we are to serve.

Giving To The World Hunger Program

Members of the ELCA contributed more than $15.57 million for the church's World Hunger Appeal and more than $12 million for international and domestic disaster relief in 2001.

In 2001, 71.8 percent of the appeal's funds was spent on fighting hunger and poverty overseas and 11.7 percent was spent in direct relief and community development in the Unites States. Another 9.6 percent provided educational resources for the ELCA, hunger advocacy work and environmental stewardship efforts. The remaining 6.9 percent was spent on administration, fund raising and communication expenses.

(For a copy of the full press release please go to http://listserv.elca.org/archives/elcanews.html and click on April, and then #14.)

Northwest Washington Synod Information

Check Out The Synod's Website

Have you seen the new look to the Synod website? (You can find the web site at www.lutheransnw.org.) After much planning, the Communication Committee was thrilled to be able to role out the new look to the website on April 3.

As with any website, this is an ongoing project. There are some areas (such as Synod Committees and Calendar) that are still in the process of being developed. The Synod Communication Committee is working hard to keep the site fresh, up-to-date, and easy to use. The Committee welcomes your comments. Please send your comments to Margit Peiffle, Communication Specialist, at peifflepr@aol.com.

LOMA Update

The upcoming changes at LOMA Conference and Retreat Center reported in the last issue need clarification. After a thorough review, the Board of Directors decided that the valuable asset represented by LOMA could more effectively benefit the Lutheran community in other ways. The facility is expected to close in a couple of years, however in the meantime it is business as usual and your support is needed. A successful transition will ensure a successful future for the ministry. Visit our new website at www.lomacenter.com. Please call LOMA at 425-392-1871 with any questions or to book your next retreat!

Receive On-The-Spot Pension Estimate

The Board of Pensions is providing a representative to our Synod Assembly on June 7 and 8 at Trinity, Lynnwood. The representative for our Synod Assembly is Pauline (Polly) Bergerson. She is the coordinator for the Customer Outreach Unit at the Board of Pensions and she has been with the Board for 10 years. Stop by the Board of Pensions' table during the Assembly, visit with Polly and receive an on-the-spot pension estimate. For more information about the Board of Pensions go to their website at www.elcabop.org.

Peace for Middle East

Included in this newsletter is an insert, a Middle East Peace Petition, that has been organized by an organization called *Churches for Middle East Peace*. This petition is for you to share with others for their signature. The short-term goal for *Churches for Middle East Peace* is to collect 10,000 signatures to present to our D.C. representatives by June 30. We, as Lutherans, have been "assigned" 2000 signatures to collect.

For more information about the organization called *Churches for Middle East Peace,* go to their website at www.cmep.org or contact Anita Aukee Johnson, from Anacortes Lutheran in Anacortes, at 360-293-4076. Anita recently attended a *Churches for Middle East Peace* Conference in Washington D.C.

Life Together: Listening, Learning, Living

2002 Synod Assembly

Hopefully your calendars are marked, voting members elected and registration material mailed. In less than one month the 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will commence. The Assembly is scheduled for Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood.

This year's theme is: *Life Together: Listening, Learning, Living.* The theme will be centered around the topic of homosexuality. This was chosen because of the two resolutions that were passed at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly. (For more information, please go to the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org/Assembly2002/index.)

Keynote speaker for the Synod's Assembly is the **Rev. James M. Childs Jr.**, appointed in January 2002 to lead the ELCA study on Homosexuality. The **Rev. Charles Miller**, executive for administration and executive assistant to the Presiding Bishop, is the Churchwide Representative to our Assembly. (Biographical information on both Childs and Miller can be found on the Synod website. Click on 2002 Assembly.)

Chair of this year's Assembly Task Force is Steven Chapman. Steve can be reached at 206-322-3477 or email at chinadad@hotmail.com.

Information about the 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly can be found on the Synod's website.

The 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly offering will be taken for *Stand With Africa*. *Stand With Africa* is a three-year campaign of Lutheran World Relief, the ELCA World Hunger Program and LC-MS World Relief. The campaign supports African churches and communities as they withstand HIV/AIDS, banish hunger and build peace. For more information about *Stand with Africa* go to Lutheran World Relief at www.lwr.org.

Thank You: The 2002 Synod Assembly Task Force

Steven Chapman, Chair (Central, Seattle)
Paul Benz, Forum Planning (Lutheran Public Policy Office)
Donene Blair, Synod Liaison (Synod Staff)
Sherianne Caldwell, Reference & Counsel (Luther Memorial, Seattle)
Fred Chrysler, Facility (Trinity, Lynnwood)
Ed Gustafson, Inclusion of People with Handicapping Conditions (Maple Leaf, Seattle)
Lyle Kellogg, Treasurer (Peace, Silvana)
Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Banners (St. Luke's, Bellevue)
Claudia LaFollette, Displays (Burlington, Burlington)
Rev. Jan Nesse, Forum Planning (Assistant to the Bishop)
Rev. Eldon Olson (ret.), Forum Planning (St. James, Seattle)
Kathy Ostlund, Registration (Our Savior's, Everett)
Margit Peiffle, Communication (Synod Staff)
Rev. Nancy Winder, Worship (Faith, Seattle)
Cheryl Wolff, Registration (Trinity, Everett)

News From The Board of Pensions

Update on Clergy Housing Allowance Legislation

Earlier this month a clergy housing allowance companion bill S. 2200 was introduced in the U.S. Senate. (S. 2200 and was the same as bill H.R. 4156 that unanimously passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 16.) The Senate passed this clergy housing allowance bill on a voice vote May 2. It is expected that the bill will be signed by the president by the middle of May. For more information go to www.elcabop.org/Benefit_plans/taxes_housing/call_to_action.asp.

Changes in Your Life?

If you have made changes to your status, such as new employment, salary change, marriage, birth, adoption, etc. please remember to tell the Board of Pensions. Many forms are available for you to download at http://www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/forms_pdf.

Tools For You

Want to know the cost of sponsoring someone in the ELCA benefits program? Want to see how much retirement income you could accumulate with some additional savings? The Board of Pensions' web site has several tools to help you, including our total compensation, contribution amounts, and savings calculators at http://www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/calculators/.

Awards For The ELCA

The ELCA received several awards at the recent convention of the Associated Church Press (ACP).

The Lutheran magazine led the way with five awards including two Awards of Excellence for a news story and in depth-coverage, an Award of Merit for reader response, and two Honorable Mentions for department and Biblical interpretation.

Lutheran Woman Today magazine brought home four awards, the ELCA News Service received two awards, and *Seeds for the Parish* received one award.

PLU Summer Institute

Join others on campus at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) from June 24-27 for the *2002 Summer Institute of Theology.* Pastors, students, and lay person will gather together to hear three scholars speak on this year's theme: *Jesus, Messiah, and Scripture: God's Word for a New Century.* PLU is excited to be able to include Luke Timothy Johnson of Candler School of Theology in Atlanta as well as John Petersen and Alicia Batten from PLU. Early bird tuition is only $200 for clergy and $100 for lay or retired clergy—for those registered by June 1. For more information contact the PLU Office of Church Relations at 253-535-7423 or email at crel@plu.edu.

This year Johnson's opening lecture will be available live on the internet from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, June 24. For a minimal cost of $5 you can obtain a password to watch the lecture. For more information, go to www.plu.edu/~crel.

Healthy Congregations

Dr. Peter Steinke will be leading a facilitator training workshop for Healthy Congregations from August 27-29 at LOMA, Issaquah.

This three-day workshop will prepare professional facilitators to conduct Healthy Congregations' workshops. Participants will receive a complete package of workshop materials, including a Facilitator's Manual, congregational study guides and video. Cost: $550 per person; $950 for two people; or $1200 for three or more. To register, please contact Healthy Congregations at 512-342-8684 or on their website at www.healthycongregations.org. Our local contact is Rev. Julie Josund, Calvary in Seattle. She can be reached at 206-783-3930 or by email at pastorjulie@earthlink.net.

Lola Wolf In Recital

The *Holy Trinity Music & Arts Series* presents organist Lola Wolf in recital at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, at Holy Trinity, Mercer Island. Suggested donation is $10 adults, $5 children.

The program features traditional and modern organ music. The program includes variations on the Pentecost hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus" by 17th century French composer Nicholas D'Grigny, "Annum per Annum" by contemporary Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, and much more. Wolf performs on the 22-stop Coulter tracker action pipe organ, commissioned for Holy Trinity in 1981.

The *Holy Trinity Music & Arts Series* presents performances and exhibits area. For more information please visit www.htlcmi.org/musicarts.

Messiah Lutheran Summer Music Camp

If you are a student that is serious about music then this is the camp for you. There will be professional instruction for students of all ages, instrumental and vocal. The camp will run from July 29 – August 4 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 805 Fourth St., Auburn.

Students will receive individual and group instruction for both instrumental and vocal in traditional and contemporary music. Housing will be available to the first 50 students to register.

For more information visit the web site at www.messiahlutheranchurch.org, email dwmdeuane@hotmail.com or call 253-833-5280.

Foss Home Celebration

The Foss Home & Village Auxiliary will celebrate it's 50th Anniversary on June 20. An Open House will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at Luther Memorial, Seattle.

John Henkel, Executive Director; David Reinke, Foss Foundation Director; Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop; and Foss staff will convey their gratitude to a dedicated, hard-working, caring group of volunteers for their service to and on behalf of the frail elderly.

Since its inception in 1951 the purpose of this organization has been to promote and stimulate interest and assist in the growth and development of the home. For more information, contact Marlene Obie, Volunteer Coordinator, at 206-834-2586 or at mobie@fosscare.org.

It's Only Right

by Mark J. Snow, Interfaith Task Force to End Homelessness

Do we ever get caught up in the grind of the day-to-day and find ourselves blind? We have our business to address and our duties to perform.

In its *2001 Annual One Night Homeless Count*, the Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless found 7,350 individuals without homes in King County on the night of October 19, 2001.

Can this be *right*?

Yes; it's right.

No, it's not *right.*

If we can see through our day-to-day activities, then we have to look at what we can do. Efforts of individual congregations are many and varied: **Immanuel Lutheran and St. John United,** Seattle, provides a shelter for men. **First Lutheran in Richmond Beach** actively supports Tent City. **Our Redeemer's in Ballard and Central Lutheran on Capitol Hill** are also doing what they can to support this cause.

Is there a way your congregation can help make things right? Resources and opportunities are abundant. The Compass Center can benefit from your efforts. Does your congregation partner with the Lutheran Alliance To Create Housing (LATCH)? Perhaps there is a role to play in the passage of the Seattle Housing Levy coming up in the fall. Certainly, we in the **Interfaith Task Force to End Homelessness** welcome your involvement and would be glad to help facilitate your efforts.

The *2nd Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness Conference* is being held on June 2 at the First United Methodist Church, Seattle. This conference is an ideal opportunity to learn more about homelessness. Also, the Synod Assembly on June 7-8 will afford a chance to voice your support of a resolution to extend the Bishops' statement (see Synod website) of a year ago to start making things *right.*

It's only right if *everyone* can get inside some place called home. We, as God's children finding our own way home to God's promised kingdom, must not forget our brothers and sisters in the here-and-now of the day-to-day.

For more information, contact Bill Kirlin-Hackett at 425-867-9070 or, me at 206-361-2144. Rev. Paul Benz of the Lutheran Public Policy Office at 206-694-5772 is another great resource.

Web Sites for Youth Groups

Aid Association for Lutherans/ Lutheran Brotherhood is extending a special invitation to Lutheran Schools/ classrooms and Lutheran youth groups to establish Web sites on Lutherans Online. The grants are available to the first 350 Lutheran schools/classrooms and to the first 150 Lutheran youth groups. To apply for this grant and to read about how you can qualify, go to www.lutheransonline.com/lo/youthgrant.

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director; Lutheran Public Policy Office

A blessed Pentecost greetings to you! This month I will focus on three things: Welfare Reform Legislation; My attendance at a World Council of Churches Consultation on Multicultural Ministry & Racial Justice; and the Synod Assembly.

Welfare Reform (TANF - Temporary Aid to Needy Families)—This is our nation's welfare reform policy and it is being reauthorized as I write this in Congress. The ELCA documents that relate to this are: Welfare Reform Principles (1996), Social Statement from 1999 on *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood For All*, and the Conference of Bishop's statement on *Wealth & Poverty* (2000). I urge you to write/call/email our U.S. Senators and your Congressional rep asking them to include the following four supports needed to help people out of poverty and not just off the welfare rolls: 1) place reduction of poverty as the main goal of federal policy, 2) do not increase the required work hours, 3) expand access for job training and education, and 4) increase funding for childcare and the TANF block grant.

World Council of Churches Consultation on Multicultural Ministry & Racial Justice—I am willing to talk with your congregation on multicultural ministry and racial justice issues as I have just came back from a World Council of Churches meeting in Thailand on this topic.

Synod Assembly— I will be at the Synod Assembly with a display full of information on a variety of subjects that need your advocacy. Be sure to stop at the advocacy table to sign a letter or write your own about welfare reform/poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Don't hesitate to speak to me about any concerns or questions you have about the ELCA's Advocacy Ministry. I continue to be willing to come to 'teach & preach' at your congregation. You can contact me at 206-694-5772 or email me at pbenz@lcsnw.org.

Teach English in Slovakia

Volunteer English teachers are needed in four high schools in Slovakia. The schools are operated by the Lutheran Church in Slovakia. One year assignment begins August 2002 through June 2003. Provisions include room, a small living allowance and medical insurance. Student loans may be deferred.

The volunteer is responsible for airfare to/from. Qualifications: English major or Education certification preferred. Open to considering graduates with other majors. Christian active in church. This is a great opportunity for recently retired people or young college graduates. For more information and to complete an on-line application, view the full listing on the website www.elca.org/dgm/mission.

For Beginning Choir Directors

The Grunewald Guild is offering a new course this summer called *Choir Directing for Beginners* during the week of August 5-11. The course is taught by Eldon Balko, Emeritus Associate Professor of Music at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN.

This course will offer skills and resources, practice, and the delight of working with this master of choral conducting. Join us for what we promise will be an unforgettable week! Visit the Grunewald Guild website: http://artfaith.com for registration forms and information about additional courses being offered this summer.

A Visitor's View

A Visitor's View of Peacemaking Approaches with Young People will be the program of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Lutheran Women's Caucus at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 1, at Central, Seattle. Presenter is Katy Reuer, a Lutheran Volunteer Corps worker with the Lutheran Peace Fellowship. The meeting will begin with shared finger food.

The Chapter is planning to prepare a meal for the Church of Mary Magdalene on Saturday, July 6, beginning at 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Fifth and Marion in Seattle. The Church, which welcomes homeless women in downtown Seattle is supported by church women of many denominations (including NWWA Synod). For more information call 425-747-5924.

Three Positions Open

First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach is accepting applications for several staff positions: Director of Youth and Family Ministry (full-time), Music Ministry (part-time) and Senior Choir Director (part-time). Specific information about these positions can be received in writing at: 18354 Eighth Ave. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177. Email at 1lrb@gte.net. Request should be addressed Lead Pastor.

Choir and Worship Positions Open

Gloria Dei Lutheran, Alderwood Manor, is currently seeking to fill two part-time staff positions. Contact Ron Johnson at 425-481-5698 or Pastor Gary Rothenberger at 425-776-2444. **Chorister Dir:** Work with children teaching and rehearsing songs. The estimated time commitment is approximately two hours per week during the school year. **Worship Dir:** Provide support and coordination for the many music and worship-related groups at Gloria Dei. The estimated time commitment is eight hours per week.

WAC Position Open

The Washington Association of Churches, Seattle, has a position opening for Public Policy Program Associate. This is a full time position (some weekend work is required). The position is open June 15, 2002. Salary range is $40,000+ DOE plus health/pension benefits. For more information go to their website at www.wac.org.

Youth Gatherings

"face 2 face get connected"

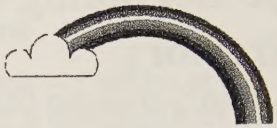
The Western States Youth Gathering will be held July 1 through 7, 2002, in San Jose, Calif. There will be awesome mass gatherings, enthusiastic speakers and lively music. This gathering is for youth in 9-12 grades. Cost is $224 per person, plus $120 for hotel cost per night per room. For more information go to www.wsyg.com or call 1-888-852-FACE.

Do Life! Ubuntu!

It's not too early to be thinking about the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Ga. The dates are July 16-20 and July 23-27. The theme for the Gathering is *Do Life! Ubuntu!.*

Registration materials will be mailed in April. Cost is $224 per person, which includes all the program materials and secondary insurance. Housing and meals are not included. More information is at www.elca.org/gathering or call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2100.

Rainbow of Gifts



Rainbow of Gifts will be held July 28-August 1 at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. This program is for youth from diverse cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds entering 9th into young adulthood who will come together in this leadership event that promises an exciting mix of lively worship, challenging skill-building, cultural enrichment and faith development. Cost is $100 *(Includes program, housing and meals).* For more information contact Melinda Jenkins at 206-624-0093, ext. 113, or email at melindajenkins@juno.com.

Holy Commotion

Holy Commotion will be held July 28-August 1 at Pacific Lutheran University. This program will cover music, dance, drama and worship leadership. Learn how to use your gifts in your own church.

Cost is $200 *(Includes program, housing and meals).* For more information contact Tom Weathers at 253-847-1565 or email at dday7070@aol.com.

Evergreen Youth Television

There are still a few spots open!

Intensive workshop teaches young people from across the country to produce videos from a faith and values perspective. The workshop will take place at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. Cost is$500 (*Includes registration, housing, meals)* . Workshop participants must provide your own transportation. For more information contact Evergreen Youth TV at 206-624-0093, ext. 114, or email at eytv@hotmail.com.

Within Our Family

***Within Our Family** depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.*

To Keep in Our Prayers....

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.) and his wife** Rachel who were in a serious one-car accident last summer. Continued prayers for their recovery.

† **The Rev. Doug Langholz** (Magnolia, Seattle) who continues to suffer the debilitating effects of ALS and is on disability. A celebration of his ministry was held at Magnolia on April 14. He and his wife, Mary, will continue to worship at Magnolia. You can contact Pastor Doug and Mary Langholz at: 2802 - 29th Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98199-2710; telephone 206-285-6214. The Rev. Mark Reiff will continue to serve the congregation of Magnolia.

† **The Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† For all of our **rostered leaders and congregations** both within our Synod and in the ELCA.

Congratulations...

† To the congregation of **Clearbook, Everson,** on their 100th Anniversary which they celebrated on April 21, 2002.

News and Notes

❖ During the Lenten soup service at **St. Matthew, Edmonds**, worshipers were encouraged to write on the paper tablecloths with markers. The intent was to write words of encouragement to the Fire Fighters who are still working seven days a week, 24-hours a day to clear Ground Zero in NY. Twelve table coverings were combined into four banners full of love and blessings for the rescue workers.

❖ Fourteen Junior and Senior High Youth from **Salem, Mount Vernon**, came together in February to participate in World Vision's *30-Hour Famine*. They went without food for 30 hours and spent time learning what it is like to be faced with hunger. In all, more than 90 youth from around the Synod participated. The youth collected more than 2,000 pounds of food which was donated to Oasis Teen Shelter and Tierra Nueva ministries.

❖ In April **Bishop Chris Boerger** signed a Washington Association of Churches (WAC) statement for *Justice and Peace in the midst of violence – Israel, Palestine and the United States; A Call For Action from Christian Religious Leaders in the State of Washington.* This statement was also signed by Bishop Robert Hofstad, SWWA Synod. The full statement can be seen at the WAC website at www.wac.org or on the NWWA Synod website at www.lutheransnw.org.

Check out our Summer Activities!

Leadership Training Schools

All Training Schools will take place at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. Please direct all questions to Sue Hockley at 360-573-5031 or email at hockley5@aol.com

- **LTS I**—July 29-August 1; cost is $130, *includes program, meal and lodging*. This is an opportunity to build relationships by being a part of a small group, Bible Study, games and meetings.
- **LTS II**—July 28-August 1; cost is $145, *includes program, meal and lodging*. This is for those who have already attended LTS I and wish to return as a small group leader.
- **LTS III**—July 28-August 1; cost is $165, *includes program, meal and lodging. The additional charge is for servant event and transportation.* This is for those who have attended LTS I/II and are currently in High School or 2002 graduates.

Resource Center News

Our Journey—Around the World in Eight Weeks with a Bible Study for 20 and 30 year olds.

Twelve young adults travel around the world on a spiritual pilgrimage to find that life doesn't have to be extraordinary... just meaningful. This course is presented on four videotapes. Each tape takes you to a different country and through a different topic: *Discovering our Purpose* (V-1241); *Establishing Priorities* (V-1242); *Deepening Our Personal Faith* (V-1243); and *Igniting Our Passion* (V-1244). To reserve call 206-624-0093, ext. 100.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of the

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(Permission to copy information in Soundings for use in congregations is granted.)

The deadline for the August 2002 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, July 1. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; fax: 360-435-5955; email: peifflepr@aol.com; or telephone 360-403-9870.